

CROYDON'S SQUAD

CROYDON are managed by Ted Shepherd who won an Amateur Cup winners medal with Sutton in 1963 when they beat Wimbledon. Ted joined Croydon when the club were bottom of the Athenian League Premier Division and has since taken them into Division Two of the Rothmans Isthmian League. Here's a run down on his squad.

DAVE COBB — Goalkeeper: A former England Amateur International. Has played for Tooting, Kingstonian and Walton and Hersham. Aged 30, a school teacher.

KELVIN ROOTS — Defender: An apprentice professional with Queens Park Rangers. Has played for Tooting. Aged 20.

ADRIAN HILL — Defender: Experience with several Isthmian clubs,

represented Surrey and the Athenian League. Aged 30.

ROBIN GONZALEZ — Defender: Played for Bromley, Sutton and Leatherhead. Has also played in mid-field, aged 25 and a representative with an American company in London.

LES SETTERS — Defender: Strong and versatile in defence with several goals to his credit this season. Has played for Redhill and Bromley, aged 27.

RAY SHINNERS — Defender: A former England schools representative, aged 19, and a student teacher at St. Lukes College, Exeter.

ALAN PRIME — Midfield: Ex-Crystal Palace junior who has returned this season to Croydon from Carshalton Athletic. Aged 23 and an insurance agent.

FRED STERLING — Midfield: Skipper of the side, joining Croydon

after experience with Sutton and Leatherhead. Aged 25 and lives locally in South Norwood.

BRIAN WOZZLEY — Midfield: A most skilful performer with a flair for scoring goals. Joined Croydon from Woking, but has also played for Wembley, Maidenhead and Tooting. Aged 27, he was recently married and moved to Penge.

MARTIN O'TOOLE — Striker: Aged 25 and watched last season by Luton Town. He has played for Epsom and Redhill in the Athenian League, and runs a family building business.

BERNIE MERRON — Striker: A prolific goalscorer since joining the club from Bromley last season. Aged 22 and a trainee surveyor.

CLIFF HALL — Striker: Played in the Football League for Charlton at the age of 16. A natural winger with a fine turn of speed, he is aged 25.

JOHN SEARS — Striker: Has played for Kingstonian and has scored several goals this season. Aged 21 with a powerful shot.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, who claimed country-wide fame last season when they knocked out Bournemouth and took Middlesbrough to a replay in the FA Cup, might just get a taste of their own shock medicine tomorrow (Saturday, 3 pm).

They come to Croydon Arena to face a Croydon side having their best run in their history and confident they can add to it in this attractive fourth qualifying round FA Cup tie (writes David McClelland).

The prize to be won is a place in the first round proper and possible Third or Fourth Division opposition — and what a money-spinner that would be for Croydon, who are lucky most weeks to get 150 supporting them!

But if there ever was a time when such a dream draw could come true it is now.

In 20 league and cup outings this season only two defeats have been suffered and incredibly only 14 goals conceded — and five of those were scored by Tonbridge in the FA Trophy.

The long term aim of Croydon this season must be to win promotion to the First Division of the Isthmian League, and so far their hopes look bright.

The only unbeaten side in either division of the Isthmian League, Croydon moved into third place in the Second Division on Monday night with an impressive 1-0 victory over promotion rivals Tilbury.

And what is more, it is a good third place they hold, for they have games in hand of all the other clubs at the top end of the table.

But, for the moment, all attention is turned on tomorrow's match. Says Croydon manager Ted Shepherd: "We are

very confident. We have everything to gain on our own ground where we are so far unbeaten."

Wycombe will provide their biggest test to date. Eight of the squad played a part in the Bucks side's FA Cup run last season, and, although they have not made the best of starts this season, Wycombe, Isthmian League champions four years out of the last five, have chalked up wins over Hendon 4-2 and Walton 5-2 in recent weeks.

Wycombe are renowned for having big travelling support and they could swell the crowd to 1,000, which would be Croydon's largest gate for three years.

Shepherd travelled to Oxford City on Wednesday to run the rule over Wycombe in a league game, and he has also been in contact with his former Sutton United colleague Larry Pritchard, who spent four years at Wycombe.

Big John Delaney, who is back with Wycombe after two years with Bournemouth, is a big danger in the air, while the record of the experienced Tony Horseman, who has scored more than 500 goals, speaks for itself.

Skipper Delaney and Welsh star Geoff Anthony are receiving treatment for injuries this week, but the likely Wycombe party is expected to be — Maskell, Birdseye, Mead, Delaney, Eaton, Bullock, Alexander, Reardon, Hollifield, Horseman, Evans, Anthony, Price.

Shepherd has provisionally named the 12 who played on Monday. Striker Bernie Merron has a sore shoulder and Adrian Hill, Robin Gonzalez and Alan Prime all have knocks, but the Croydon manager is hoping they will come through fit from training this week.

Croydon — Cobb, K. Roots, Setters, Sterling, Hill, Gonzalez, Prime, Wozzley, Merron, O'Toole, Hall, Gould.

Croydon have a home league game against Hampton on Monday (7.30) but, of course, this will be called off if a Cup replay, which would be Tuesday, is needed.

See Sports Gossip: Page 55.

Tough FA Cup debut

CLIFF GOULD, an 18-year-old centre forward, makes his FA Cup debut for Croydon today against Wycombe, the team that shook Jack Charlton's Middlesbrough in the Cup last season, writes

MICHAEL MELANIPHY.

After only a brief appearance as a substitute in midweek, Gould is

picked to replace the injured Bernie Merron.

Croydon, only unbeaten team in the Rothmans Isthmian League, face a tough match against Wycombe, though the Isthmian champions have four injured players in John Delaney, Paul Birdseye, Geoff Anthony and Tony Horseman.